

NASA College Scholarship Fund requests applications

For the seventeenth year, the NASA College Scholarship Fund is requesting applications from dependents of NASA employees for six college scholarships which will be awarded this year. The NASA College Scholarship Fund was established by Pulitzer Prize-winning author James A. Michener and contributions have been received from NASA employees through the Combined Federal Campaign as well as contributions from the JSC Chapter of the NASA Alumni League and the Freedom Forum. Seventy-eight scholarships have been awarded across the agency since inception of the Scholarship Fund in 1982. Applications are due by March 31.

This fund will be awarding six scholarships of \$2,000 each. The scholarship is renewable for six years, not to exceed \$8,000. Applicants must be pursuing a course of study that will lead to an undergraduate degree in science or engineering at an accredited college or university in the United States.

Applicants must be dependents of current or retired NASA employees or

dependents of former NASA employees who died while employed by NASA. Applicants must be graduated from an accredited public, private, or parochial high school or be currently enrolled in college with good academic standing. An applicant must have a combined high school grade and college (if any) grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent.

After meeting the minimum requirements, applicants will be ranked based on the following objective standards: (1) academic preparation, including grades, class rank, and pattern of courses; (2) school activities; (3) community activities; (4) performance on SAT or ACT; (5) written recommendations from individuals who know applicant; and (6) one-page statement of academic purpose by applicant.

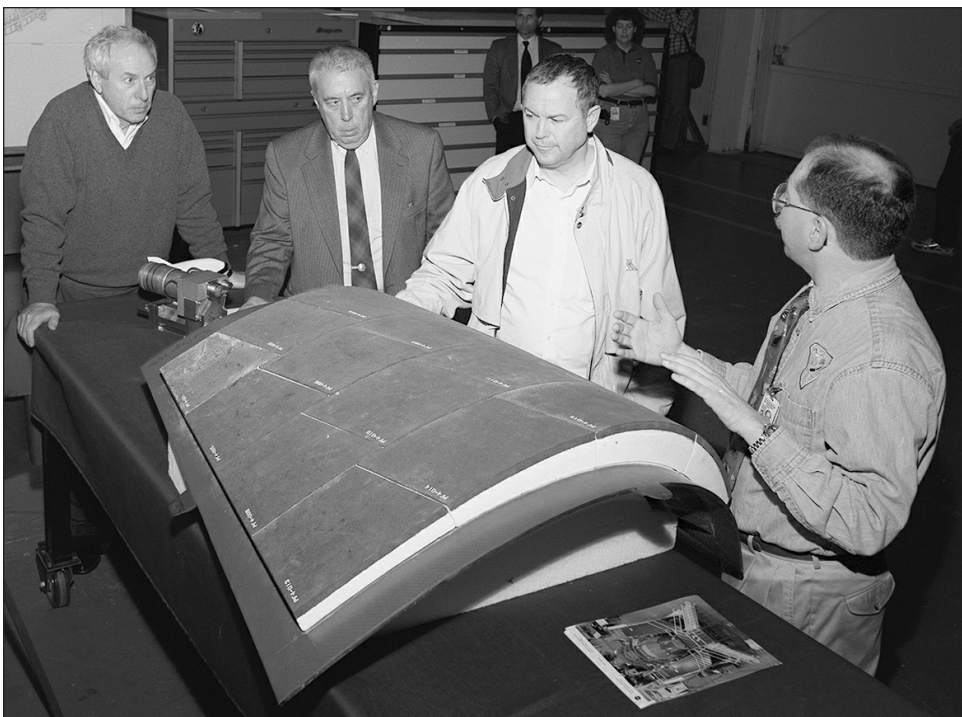
Application forms are available in Bldg. 1, Rm. 840.

Completed applications may be mailed to JSC, the NASA College Scholarship Fund, Inc.; Mail Code AH12/Scholarship Committee; Houston, TX; 77058. For more information, contact Mary O'Connell at x35774 or Teresa Sullivan at x31034. ■



JSC Photo S80-39549

Flight Director Gene Kranz discusses Mission Control operations with author James Michener during a 1980 visit to JSC. The NASA College Scholarship Fund, Inc. began with Michener's unsolicited donation of some of the proceeds from his book "Space." Michener said that he held the people of NASA in such high esteem for their good work through the years that he thought it important to make some contribution to them through the education of their children.



JSC Photo S99-01021

OFFICIAL VISIT – Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, United States House of Representatives, gets an up-close look at X-38 tiles in Bldg. 220 during a recent visit to JSC. X-38 Project Manager John Muratore, right, briefed him on the status of the project. Rohrabacher was accompanied by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin, left, and JSC Director George Abbey.

Employees Empowered for Safety

VPP? What's in it for me?

By Kathy Packard

OK. So VPP is the new buzzword and we all know that it has something to do with safety, but if I think I'm safe why should I really care and what do we really achieve out of this effort to "get" VPP?

First of all, VPP is the pinnacle result of the accomplishment of having developed and instituted a top notch safety program that is demonstrated by a low lost-time injury rate, high productivity and morale, and a strong mission sense held by both management and labor.

VPP, or OSHA's "Voluntary Protection Program," is really the culmination of the adherence to a strong belief that meeting a deadline, or making a widget, or developing a plan means nothing if a worker's safety cannot be

secured. It is a belief that when a high value is placed on human health and safety, then the worker feels his worthiness is measured not by just what he does, but by who he is and, subsequently, loyalty and fellowship are established. The worker is then unencumbered to reach his or her potential and everyone benefits.

When OSHA comes to visit us in the near future, and we have already embraced the simple philosophy that caring about our fellow worker's safety and taking proactive measures whenever possible to enhance our workplace safety is the essence to our success as a great agency, then we will be recognized as such in the form of an OSHA VPP Star site, something that tells the world that our highest prize is the safety, health and well-being of our people. ■

Saving has its rewards

By Mary Peterson

Saving does have its rewards. At least that's what the folks in the Safety, Reliability & Quality Assurance Directorate will tell you. And they have the cash-in-hand to prove it.

At a time when budget cuts come around almost as often as haircuts, SR&QA management decided there must be a way to encourage savings and recognize those employees who make a significant difference. Thus was born the Travel Efficiency Reward Incentive.

Announced in September of last year, the first recipients of the TERI reaped their benefits in a special recognition ceremony on January 29, or the end of the program's first quarter.

A Go-the-Extra-Mile (GEM) award and cash totaling \$200 was given to LeRoy Graham in a special drawing among those eligible for the prize. To qualify for the drawing, each participant had to save at least \$50 on a TDY (temporary duty) trip. Others making impressive debuts in the competition included Mike Canga with a savings of \$908; Larry Starnes, \$486; and Mark Erminger with \$468.

According to Rich Dinkel, deputy director of SR&QA, "This is a pilot program that was brought about by having to work around a travel budget that is approximately 65 percent of what is actually needed to do our job. Obviously, we had to find newer and better ways to stretch our precious travel dollars."

It couldn't be done single-handedly, however, and it would need the participation of everyone in the organization to make it work. "We wanted to recognize those employees who give something of themselves so others can do their job – those who do the right thing for the right reason," said Dinkel.

Citing early success, Dinkel remarked, "For the first quarter alone, TERI has resulted in a savings of \$4,129. Projected over the entire fiscal year, these savings will allow SR&QA personnel to execute an additional 16 trips, which, otherwise, would never occur. In fact, based on travel date history we collected, if every SR&QA traveler can and will save just \$50 on every trip, as many as 42 trips could be added with the savings!" This is enough to make any directorate sit up and take notice.

So, how does SR&QA save money to make up for the 35 percent deficit in its travel budget? Among the things that

were done included shortening the time of the trip, utilizing military BOQ (bachelor officer quarters), using a room rate below per diem, saving on rental car gasoline, saving on room rates by sharing a room, using government fuel, and, in one case, negotiating with the customer to provide lodging.

Besides these, SR&QA has furnished its employees with a lengthy list of ideas and suggestions for saving money on travel, most of which are very easy to implement. It just means making it a habit to look for ways to save.

And, the more an employee saves, the better the chances for being rewarded. Every time an official travel order is executed that results in a savings of \$50 or more in travel expenses, the employee's name is entered in a lottery pool. For every entry, there is one chance to win an award. The individual who saves the most travel money on a single trip is given 5 bonus entries, and second and third place entries each receive 3 and 1 bonus entries, respectively. One winner is selected each quarter by drawing an entry "from the hat."

For more information, contact CC de la Garza, x31033, the SR&QA administrative officer. ■

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—Rich Dinkel